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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1911.

VIRGINIA'S FISHERIES.

According to the preliminary information given out by the State Commissioner of Fisheries, the total income to Virginia from this source for the last fiscal year was \$7,500,000. The Times-Dispatch welcomes this evidence of prosperity in the fishing trade of the State, and especially are we gratified at the statement that Virginia for the first time leads Massachusetts, which has heretofore been the banner State of the Union in the production of sea foods.

Seven and a half million dollars is a great deal of money to derive from any industry, but it does not begin to measure the possibilities of Virginia's fisheries. In our deliberate opinion, oysters alone will produce as much revenue for the citizens of this State as is now secured from all fisheries combined.

Less than half of the total income from fisheries for the last fiscal year was derived from oysters, and had it not been for extraordinary runs of fish Virginia could not have made this excellent showing. The paths of fish in the great waters, their comings and goings, from the depths of the unharvested sea, are past man's finding out; but the crab and the oyster are not migratory vagabonds. With the sole exception of the promenade which some oysters made to their sorrow with a certain Walrus and Carpenter, the oyster stays where he is put. Unlike fishes, he does not take wings to himself and fly away. That is why the oyster crop can be counted on with as much certainty.

But neither oysters nor clams nor crabs will increase without care or attention. Female crabs at the spawning seasons are ruthlessly destroyed by the crab canners, though grinding up seed corn has never proved the best way to secure great crops. To protect female crabs is one thing that the Fish Commission might do, and it will prove a wise and profitable step if it is adopted. This is not all. The oyster laws are still unsatisfactory and still penalize the oyster industry. One swallow does not make a summer, and one good year will not change conditions which are brought about by legislation which is inherently bad.

We shall wait with interest for the completed report of the Fish Commission. Meanwhile we congratulate the State and the commission on the excellent showing made for 1910-1911, and we again declare, upon full consideration, our belief that the oyster industry of Virginia alone can be made to produce more than \$7,500,000, under proper laws. Virginia has the men, the waters, the oyster bottoms and the market, all that is needed is to give modern oyster producers a chance to meet modern conditions, without being hampered by obsolete and embarrassing laws.

A DOG IN THE MANGER POLICY.

In response to an argument that the Panama Canal has been built with American money, but, as "conditions now are," it will be used chiefly by foreign shipping, and consequently American shipping should enjoy special privileges, in order to make the enterprise "worth while," from the commercial point of view, the New York Board of Trade and Transportation has declared in favor of fostering American shipping by discriminating tolls on the canal.

One answer to that, which involves a question of the national honor, is found in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, under which it became feasible for us to construct the great work without violating another treaty and bringing on probably serious international complications. That agreement provided, among other things, that the canal shall be "open and free to the vessels of commerce and war of all nations . . . on terms of entire equality, so that there shall be no discrimination against any such nation or its citizens or subjects in respect to conditions or charges of traffic or otherwise." Apart, however, from the moral obligation so repugnant to discrimination, which our pledge lays upon us, the policy of special privileges would simply be giving another illustration of the fallacy and the "dumb-bell" consequences of our navigation laws, and the workings of prohibitive protection.

The Providence (R. I.) Journal argues that proposition to a conclusion so clear that a wayfaring man, though a fool, ought to be able to see it, when it says: "The theory that you must somehow injure your neighbor in order to benefit yourself is, of course, the very essence of the high protection propaganda; but it is as false in economics as it is in ethics. The increased trade which the canal will develop will be a factor in our national growth, no matter how large a share of it may be carried in foreign ships." The truth is that the only way in which it is possible for us to benefit commercially more largely than any

other nation by the building of the canal, and develop and foster a merchant marine, lies in abolishing "conditions as they are;" that, in turn, can only be accomplished by abolishing our antiquated shipping regulations, and revising the tariff so as to encourage American ship building and make the industry "worth while." There is vastly more in that than there is in trying to make the Panama Canal enterprise worth while by recourse to dishonest or dishonorable and dog-in-the-manger tactics.

And just here, as closely related to this subject in the broader and more general aspect of the question of building up an American merchant marine, it is interesting to note that there is said to be a very panicky flutter in the dove-coat of the ship subsidy advocates over a report from Washington that there is a possibility of the houses passing "a free ships bill," which the subsidists will not be able to choke off in the Senate. The Indianapolis News, in discussing the Washington report, declares that what we want now more than ever before is the right of Americans to buy ships, "and inasmuch as they now cannot—if they want to operate independently—buy them for love or money in this country, we want, as we never did before, the right to buy them elsewhere." Therefore the News is convinced that nothing would show a better grade of sanity and statesmanship, on the part of the Democratic House and the progressive of all shades in the Senate than the annulment of the antiquated laws which are making it impossible for Americans to sail ships under the American flag. Moreover, our contemporary is satisfied that it would be "a good coup" if Mr. Underwood and his party associates and the progressive "would give us that marine." For," adds the News, "we want free ships now so that we can get some of the benefits of building the Panama Canal."

In these conclusions we fully concur. A "good coup," from every viewpoint, and, not the least important viewpoint, that bearing on Democratic success in 1912, as the result of vindicating the cardinal Democratic doctrine of the greatest good to the greatest number.

A TIMELY STOCK SUGGESTION.

The Financial World, which is of Wall Street environments, but which reserves the privilege of not being with Wall Street in all of that stock and bond centre's methods, suggests the advisability of Wileyizing securities.

In explaining what it means, and the whys and wherefores that prompt the suggestion, the World argues that it is as essential to have pure stocks and bonds as pure food and drugs, for, if the individual is no stronger than his stomach, the nation is no stronger than its safety deposit boxes.

Further, the World reasons, and cogently, that if a man puts \$100,000 into his box this year and finds when he opens it a year hence that it is half full of water, he is not only crippled himself, but his community and the nation receive a shock. "Wileyizing securities" is good and timely.

JOHN BIGELOW.

"One of the grandest old men of the age" was the way in which President Taft, at the dedication of the New York Public Library, referred to John Bigelow, who died this week at the age of ninety-four. More than that, he was a brilliant diplomat, a versatile and accomplished author, lawyer and philanthropist, one who typified the best in American culture and character. A man of remarkable capacity, his activities extended in many directions, and his claims to distinction were many and high.

Bigelow was Lincoln's minister to France. He was the friend, trustee and biographer of Tilden. With William Cullen Bryant he labored in the heat of the antislavery agitation. Bigelow was a great man fifty years ago. He gave his lifetime to civic service, and he was active until the great shadow fell upon him and the light faded. He died with the proud distinction of being "New York's first citizen."

It was the last great link with a great past. When he was born James Monroe was beginning his first term as President. John Adams, Jefferson and Madison were then living. Clay was Speaker of the House. Washington Irving had just started to write. Aaron Burr was retaining his fortunes in New York, and Abraham Lincoln was studying his mathematics by the light of a log fire. The nation was then in a formative period, and territorial expansion had just begun. As the World says of Bigelow, "that his life extended from the year of the beginning of work on the Erie Canal to the time of the near completion of the Panama Canal is perhaps the best concrete measure of the progress it comprehended."

Mr. Bigelow lived through twenty-three presidential administrations. He knew Thackeray and Dickens. The Paris of the third Napoleon was familiar to him, and he knew Eugene when she was in the bloom of her womanhood. Until his last days he retained a vigorous interest in the affairs of his city. He had known old New York, but he was as familiar with the newer city. His was a long public service, and his virility and civic zeal never flagged. As chairman of the executive committee having in charge the splendid new public library building in New York, erected at a cost of \$10,000,000, he closed his career as one who gave with all his mind and heart for the city in which he spent almost a century.

CRIMINAL SENTIMENTALISM.

Eleven years ago four men were found guilty in New Jersey of taking

part in fatally drugging and assaulting a young mill girl, Jennie Bosschert. In sentencing the three men who were wholly guilty to thirty years' imprisonment, the trial judge said:

"From time immemorial the legal penalty for a crime of that nature is death, but the leniency of the jury in the exercise of their lawful authority has saved you from the gallows, and no further leniency can be expected in this tribunal."

DON'T FORGET TO BUY SOME.

It is unfortunately true that few methods of giving small amounts to worthy causes have been devised. One hesitates to call on the treasurer of a charitable society with a contribution of 25 or 50 cents. Sensible people have long ago stopped giving to the street beggar or the house-to-house mendicant.

One of the few opportunities to help an excellent cause in a small way, if larger contributions are impracticable, is afforded by the Red Cross Christmas seals. A 10-cent purchase helps; no transaction in these little stamps is so small as not to be of value. Every seal is a bullet fired in the war against disease and death.

The small sale of the seals this year in Richmond is inexplicable. Nearly all of the proceeds goes to local work against tuberculosis, and all of this will be devoted to Pine Camp, to care for advanced cases of the disease. Each patient removed to this institution lessens the opportunity for the individual to be infected—lessens the spread of consumption.

Placed on mail matter, whether letters or presents, each seal carries a message of good wishes and shows the sender's interest in the modern warfare against the evil influences that are in the world.

WHY THE CHANGE?

Courage, sincerity, a readiness always to declare himself and to fight in the open for his convictions—these are the qualities which Mr. Roosevelt has lavished and put above all others, and which his friends claim he has in the highest degree. In February, 1909, after having been on terms of the closest intimacy with Mr. Taft for many years, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"No man of better training, no man of more dauntless courage, of sounder common sense, and of higher, finer character has ever come to the presidency than William Howard Taft."

That was the echo of what Mr. Roosevelt wrote and said on innumerable occasions. Long before fate had put Mr. Roosevelt in the White House he declared that Mr. Taft was fine presidential timber.

Why has Mr. Roosevelt changed his mind about Mr. Taft? What has Mr. Taft done to work a change in the ardent estimate once formed of him? Has Mr. Taft's training deteriorated? Is his courage less dauntless than it was? Is his common sense less sound now? Is his character less high and less fine than it was in 1909? If so, why does Mr. Roosevelt remain silent? What has become of his readiness to declare himself? Why doesn't he come out in the open and fight? Has he mislaid the people? If so, he should say so. He has advised American manhood to "hit the line hard, don't flinch, don't foul; hit the line hard." Why doesn't he hit the line hard instead of skulking like a substitute on the side lines?

NATIONAL COMMISSION GOVERNMENT.

A four-line dispatch from Berne the other day stated that Louis Ferrer had been elected President of the Swiss Confederation. That was all, and to the newspaper readers who are accustomed to scan column after column of news about European politics it meant nothing. The election of the President of a confederation composed of twenty-two cantons is not entirely a matter of routine, but it does not excite popular interest or affect business as does the quadrennial choice of a President of the United States. Ferrer had been vice-president of the Federal Council and his election means no change whatever in governmental policy.

Presidents of the Swiss Confederation are not chosen by popular vote. They are elected by the two branches of the Federal Assembly in joint session. Politics figures very slightly in the election of a Chief Magistrate for Switzerland. Such power as he exercises has to be shared with the seven members of the Federal Council, who are also elected by the Federal Assembly. He holds office for but one year, and is not eligible for re-election until the expiration of at least a year after the end of a term.

Yet, as the Boston Globe says, "there is probably as much 'pure democracy' in the Swiss as in the American presidency. Members of the Federal Assembly, being elected for three years, have the election of three Presidents during their terms of office, and if

one Chief Executive is unsatisfactory—which rarely happens, since the voters in most of the cantons have the initiative and referendum—his tenure of office is limited and his hands are tied by the seven members of the Federal Council. The President of the Swiss Confederation is really but one-eighth of a President, the other seven-eighths being the Council.

"I would follow the passports of the United States with cannon, if necessary," lately declared Senator Heyburn with reference to the Russian treaty trouble. The Indianapolis News states the Virginia view of it in saying: "If, instead of cannon, you will make it Cannon (Joseph G.) the country will be largely with you, sir." It would be hard to effect a more desirable emigration.

Why is it that a fellow's old girls write to him just a few days before Christmas and tell him how much they would like to see him again?

The queen of the home is all right when it comes to baking cake, but you can't beat the Old Man when it comes to breaking eggs for the nog.

It would be so much more appropriate if, instead of holly and cedar, the Christmas decoration should be the cabbage leaf, which is so much more fragrant.

Three more Christmases and there will be a Democrat to eat that big turkey and trimmings on the White House table.

One of the presidential possibilities will spend Christmas in Richmond, and he will doubtless say, "I had rather be in Richmond than be President."

The favorite Christmas dish of the Orange Observer this year will be Gordonsville turkey stuffed with onions and served with molasses gravy.

Voice of the People

Dangers in the Diet of School Children.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Allow me, please, the use of your paper for a cause of very considerable importance. I wish to call the attention of parents and others concerned to the very common practice of giving money to children to buy candy and other like stuffs with at school.

Just a short time since a child bought coconut candy from a store near the depot. That night the child was taken desperately ill. Prominent poison was soon developed and of so virulent a character was it that all the organs of the child's body were soon seriously affected. For days the life hung in a balance between life and death.

Three or four physicians were called in attendance, and trained nurses added to them in doing all that human knowledge and skill could devise to save the life of the dear child. The little body gave under the strain, and the life of one of the brightest and most promising boys was cut off in the morning of this splendid promise. Two things need here to be considered:

1. The mistake parents make in giving carelessly, and out of love and devotion, that doubtless is—mistaken though small—is money each morning to buy something at school. Many parents, too, instead of putting up a wholesome little lunch, will often later in the day find their child quite a sum of money in the pocket of the children to buy from the stores near the school what their fancy dictates. They know it is a fact that a bad combination of green cucumber, pickle and coconut candy.

2. Another point is this: We wish to urge these candy store friends to use great care in selecting the wares they offer for sale.

We cannot say that the stores should be discredited, nor are we trying to control their business methods. But parents must consider this: That the supply of candy in these stores cannot be always fresh, nor is it always pure. It often happens that such candy comes to the storekeeper stale. It is then kept until it is sold—a longer or shorter time, but the candy must be stale. Then, too, it is often exposed to flies and other insects, and by the time it reaches the hand of the innocent little purchaser, the candy is often times covered with invisible, though nevertheless potent with its bacteria.

The bad experience as related above, coming under my personal experience, induces me to say this word of warning to parents, and further, let me urge these candy store friends to use great care in selecting their stock.

J. CALVIN STEWART.

Equal Suffrage Defended.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—It is through no desire for discussion that I ask the printer of my last say in reply to A Woman of Virginia, but merely that there may be publicly presented facts and not merely personal opinions with the hope that "soft words and hard arguments" may change an antagonist of equal suffrage into a protagonist.

The equal suffragist (by the way, not suffragette, that word being correctly applied only to the English militant element), man or woman, sees in the principle an opportunity of co-operation to serve humanity; to guard and save the girls and boys from the social evil and other forms of degradation; to give a practical co-worker with the husband in the protection and building up of the home interests; to help the working women in their efforts for self uplift; to give the practical recognition, due to all supporters of government.

It must be on account of the altruism

Abe Martin

Colonel Bryan is for Governor Wilson and "skin Governor Harmon, but it's pretty hard to tell which one it will help the most. One front tooth and all is lost.

A CHRISTMAS INVITATION
By John T. McCutcheon.



"I assure that R. S. V. P. means 'Remember to Send Valuable Presents.'"

Impossible to live at his ancestral home of Chillingham Castle, esteemed by the family as the most beautiful of the Chillingham forest from time immemorial, having been described as of unknown antiquity, in records contemporary with the reign of William the Conqueror, when Chillingham Castle belonged to Robert de Muschamp.

Lord Tankerville has, through his French grandmother, Corisande de Gramont, the blood of Henry IV, King of France, in his veins, and it is to this de Gramont ancestry that he is indebted for his good looks, and to which his sister, the late Countess of Pathoussin, who died so mysteriously at a small hotel at Havre, within an hour of the demise of her husband, the day following their arrival from a prolonged visit to New York, owed her famous beauty. She lies buried with her husband in Cockpen churchyard, so well known through the famous ballad of "The Laird of Cockpen."

Among the many relics at Chillingham Castle is a block of solid stone, of the kind used when a portion of the castle was rebuilt in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In sawing the stone, a hole was discovered in the center of the block, from which a live toad was taken. There are documents, signed by the Earl of Tankerville of various local dignitaries, which bear testimony to the discovery, the top, bottom and sides of the hole being covered with granulations, written by a Latin version, written by a Latin version, which no visitor to Chillingham Castle has ever yet managed to translate.

Lord Tankerville is not his father's child. In fact, he had two brothers, and as a young man, and as a good looking as himself. The elder, who bore the title of Lord Ossulton, was for a time one of the smartest officers of the Coldstream Guards, and one of the most popular figures in London society, from which he suddenly disappeared in connection with some unfortunate love affair, which led him to secure an exchange into the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, then serving in India, where he succumbed to cholera. There was another brother, too, Freddie Bennett, known in Mayfair as "Little Grey Bennett," who was a member of the bar, and who, like Lord Ossulton, suddenly disappeared from London, under rather mysterious circumstances, and who, like Lord Ossulton, suddenly disappeared from London, under rather mysterious circumstances, and who, like Lord Ossulton, suddenly disappeared from London, under rather mysterious circumstances.

No reference to the Earls of Tankerville, nor to their Castle of Chillingham, would be complete without mentioning that Edward VII, according to his own account—and I have heard it from his own lips—had the most narrow escape from death of his entire existence, at Chillingham Castle, while engaged in shooting the game of the herd of wild cattle, as the guests of the late Lord Tankerville, the sun's head and horns of this monarch of the only remaining herd of white wild cattle, of all those which roamed in the Forest of Kielder in days long prior to the Norman Conquest, were on the walls of Sandringham.

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We welcome the searchlight of inspection. The Velvet Kind Ice Cream. Sanitation, purity, quality. The Velvet Kind Ice Cream.

He met his present wife, Miss Lenora van Marter, daughter of J. G. van Marter, of New York, while engaged in revival work in this country. She is a handsome and accomplished woman, who before her marriage secured a diploma as a teacher of music. In fact, they share one another's tastes, and the marriage has been, save for financial troubles, and the annoyances consequent thereon, an extremely happy union. Both he and she possessed, at any rate during the early years of their marriage, superb and perfectly trained voices, which rendered them in great demand at religious gatherings.

Perhaps it is his own financial troubles that have rendered him appreciative of those of others; and some two or three years ago, when he was in England, at the annual meetings, resulting from overdrafts at banks, etc., he was moved, by the acute distress which prevailed at the time, to sympathize with the tenants of his estate in Shropshire to open the lead mines there, and to take for their own use all the profits which they were able to derive from working them.

It is possible that the evangelistic tendencies of Lord Tankerville, of which he certainly gave no promise in his youth, come to him through inheritance. For the founder of his family, Sir John Bennett, one of the members of Parliament for London, was appointed by Queen Elizabeth as a commissioner with the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal Egerton, and the Lord Treasurer Buckhurst, for the suppression of heresy, that is to say, for the persecution of Roman Catholics and other dissenters from the Church of England. His two colleagues owed their appointment to their office, and to their prestige as statesmen, whereas he, Sir John Bennett, was nominated by the Queen to the commission, owing to his religious zeal. It was Sir John Bennett's son and namesake who was first raised to the peerage by Charles II, as Lord Assulton, while his son, who married Lady Mary Grey, only child of the last of the Grey Earls of Tankerville, was, on the death of his father-in-law, advanced to an earldom, as Lord Tankerville of a new creation.

The Castle of Chillingham, in Northumberland, along with its big and ancient park, or rather forest, embracing some 25,000 acres, came to the Bennett Lords of Tankerville through this marriage, and is one of the oldest country seats in England, having been "freely" accounted an ancient in 1118, when the Grey Earldom of Tankerville was created by King Henry V, while the famous herd of white wild cattle, who are giving themselves up freely to humanity, and in the "power" which inheres in the justice and righteousness of their cause.

G. H. S.

Richmond.

La Marquise de Fontenoy

Lord Tankerville, who is now in this country with his American wife, staying in Chicago, while his son, the fifteen-year-old Lord Ossulton, remains with friends of his mother, at Brookline, Mass., is a many-sided and much gifted man, but who, in spite of his versatility, has always been more or less hampered by financial stringencies. Indeed, in the course of some legal proceedings a couple of years ago, he was brought to light that he and his wife had less than \$15,000 a year on which to maintain their dignity. I use this expression advisedly. For any one with a hand to his name, especially if he has any to be a peer of the realm, and an earl at that, is, by English traders, required, like visiting Americans, to pay "double for everything."

Lord and Lady Tankerville find it

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